

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-20 INRE-00

USIE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20

NEAE-00 DRC-01 /109 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2790

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 1142

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF NARCOTICS DISCUSSIONS

REF: ANKARA 1130

SUMMARY: TURKISH NEWSPAPERS PROMINENTLY AND MISLEADINGLY REPORT THAT FONMIN TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT IF U.S. AID TO POPPY GROWING REGION NOT INCREASED, TURKEY MIGHT PERMIT CONTROLLED POPPY CULTIVATION. ACTION REQUESTED: BE PREPARED FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS MISLEADING ALLEGATION FROM U.S. PRESS (SEE SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE BELOW). END SUMMARY.

1. ON FEBRUARY 14, BANNER HEADLINES IN TURKEY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, HURRIYET, PROCLAIMED: "IF COMPENSATION DOES NOT INCREASE, WE WILL PLANT OPIUM POPPIES, WE INFORMED AMERICA; THE FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE FOR TWO AND A HALF HOURS WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR". SEVERAL OTHER PAPERS ALSO

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FRONT-PAGED SIMILAR STORIES.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES SPOKE WITH THE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 13 (REFTEL. HURRIYET'S ACCOUNT OF HIS REMARKS, WHICH IS MUCH THE SAME AS IN ALL PAPERS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: WE DISCUSSED WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR THE SUBJECT OF FREEING OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION. WE TOOK UP THE PROBLEM WITH GOOD INTENTIONS AND IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. WE DWELLED ON THE MEASURES ENVISAGED IN THE EVENT CULTIVATION IS SET FREE. UNQUOTE.

(INDIRECT QUOTE: FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES SAID THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAD LISTENED TO HIS EXPLANATION WITH A REASONABLE ATTITUDE AND HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD SPEEDILY EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO HIS GOVERNMENT.)

QUOTE: I OPENED THE SUBJECT WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR MYSELF. I EXPLAINED WHY THE POPPY CULTIVATION SHOULD BE FREED. I SET FORTH THE MATTER IN ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS. UNQUOTE.

(RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE U.S. MAINTAINED ITS OPPOSITION TO POPPY CULTIVATION:) QUOTE: THE HONORABLE AMBASSADOR SAID NOTHING ABOUT IT. HE ONLY SAID THAT HE WOULD SPEEDILY CONVEY MY EXPLANATIONS TO HIS GOVERNMENT. END QUOTE. (ZAFER REPORTS THAT HE ADDED, "WE ARE FRIENDS WITH AMERICA.")

3. HURRIYET IN THE SAME STORY REPORTS THAT GUNES GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO AN UNNAMED FOREIGN JOURNALIST FEBRUARY 13 AND QUOTES HIM INDIRECTLY AS SAYING THAT TURKEY WOULD BE HONORED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORLD STRUGGLE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE. "HOWEVER", HE IS QUOTED, "THE SACRIFICE EXPECTED OF TURKEY SHOULD BE IN PROPORTION TO HER ECONOMIC STRENGTH...THERE IS A PRINCIPLE IN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW: EQUALITY IN THE PUBLIC BURDEN. IT IS POSSIBLE TO APPLY THIS TO THE ENTIRE HUMAN COMMUNITY. PART OF HUMANITY CANNOT BE LED INTO A DISASTER IN ORDER TO PROTECT ANOTHER PART. FOR THIS REASON THE LIMIT OF THE SACRIFICE ASKED OF TURKEY SHOULD BE WELL DEFINED. THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS WHAT IS BEING DISCUSSED."

4. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: EMBASSY REGRETS THESE DISTORTED AND MISLEADING ACCOUNTS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION YESTERDAY, FEBRUARY 13, WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES AND ESPECIALLY REGRETS THAT THE SOURCE OF SOME OF THESE DISTORTIONS APPEAR TO BE THE FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF. ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF WHAT TRANSPIRED AT THE MEETING IS CONTAINED IN ANKARA 1130.

5. IN ESSENCE, THE SITUATION HERE IS THAT THE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED US TO ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH A VIEW TO ASCERTAINING: (A) IF OPIUM CULTIVATION IS RESUMED, HOW MUCH DAMAGE WOULD BE DONE TO US-GOT RELATIONS; AND (B) WHETHER THE GOT CAN OBTAIN SIGNIFICANT ADDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE OPIUM BAN. IN THE MEAN-TIME, AND WITHOUT HAVING YET MADE UP ITS MIND ABOUT THE OPIUM BAN, FOR DOMESTIC POLITICALPURPOSES IN TURKEY THE GOT IS STRIKING A TOUGH PUBLIC POSE.

6. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN RESPOND TO ANY PRESS UNQUIRIE  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OPIUM, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES  
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